Taking pictures at railway platform

471. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to allow to take pictures at a railway platform in the country as Civil Aviation Ministry is considering to liberalise to take photo/pictures at airports;

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Instructions already exist on the Railways for granting permission for still photography and film shooting in Railway premises on specific terms and conditions.

Contract to foreign companies for track maintenance

472. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether constracts have been given to any foreign company for maintaining railway tracks;

(b) if so, details of the sectors for which the contract has been given; and

(c) the reasons for awarding the contract to foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Connecting of cities and districts by train

473. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have plan to introduce more trains to connect its cities and districts in the near future; and

(b) if so, the number of trains that would be introduced arid by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Introduction of new train services is an ongoing process. Indian Railways introduce trains on the basis of traffic justification, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

Accidents in Karnataka

474. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of railway accidents occurred in the country from January, 2002 to the end of October, 2003;

(b) number of persons died, injured in these accidents;

(c) how many persons died and injured in the Bangalore-Mysore oush-pull train that derailed in October, 2003;

(d) what are the causes for the above accidents;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to avert railway accidents; and

(f) is there any proposal to introduce insurance cover to passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL):(a) to (d) The details of the consequential train accidents in the period January 2002 to October, 2003, along with their broad reasons are as under:-

Sl.No	Cause	Number of Accidents
1	Failure of Railway Staff	353
2	Failure of other than Railway Staff	213
3	Equipment Failure	30
4	Sabotage	28
5	Combination of Factors	2
6	Incidental	6
7	Not Established	6
8	Under Investigation	2
	TOTAL :	665*